

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS EMERGENCY CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2022 AT 11:15 A.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

MAYOR: Louie A. Trujillo

COUNCILORS: David G. Romero - *arrived at 11:30 a.m.*
Barbara Casey
Michael L. Montoya
David Ulibarri

ALSO PRESENT: Leo Maestas, City Manager
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk
Scott Aaron, City Attorney
Antonio Salazar, Sergeant at Arms

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trujillo called the meeting to order at 11:15 am.

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Emergency Mitigation, Preparedness and Response to the Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon Fire.

Mayor Trujillo advised they were in collaboration with all agencies that are there representing the State and Federal contingencies. Mayor Trujillo advised they have been working with the leaders from the State/National Forest Service, Homeland Security and the Governor's Office. Mayor Trujillo advised Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has been beside them to secure services for the people in Las Vegas. Mayor Trujillo advised that Las Vegas Proper was not being evacuated at the moment. Mayor Trujillo advised to only rely on good news sources, they are working with KNMX and KFUN to carry out emergency messages as needed.

Mayor Trujillo advised the Santa Fe National Forest Facebook page and the Calf Canyon/Hermit's Peak Fire page have all the information needed such as acreage, the number of people fighting the fire and all other fire/evacuation information that is available. Mayor Trujillo advised they are working to improve the communication through the City's website and a single phone line for information for the citizens of Las Vegas to call. Mayor Trujillo asked for the citizens patience and understanding during this critical situation and advised the fire has been listed as the largest disaster in New Mexico history and one of the largest in U.S. history. Mayor Trujillo advised over 100,000 acres have burned along with many homes.

Mayor Trujillo advised that Homeland Security and the National Guard is there to assist Law Enforcement and to help citizens with Federal Services. Mayor Trujillo further advised as conditions change, winds will travel south pushing the fire close to town. Mayor Trujillo advised the firefighters are working hard to contain the fire from pushing further into town. Mayor Trujillo advised for health reasons mornings and evenings are the worst times when the smoke settles. Mayor Trujillo advised that the Montezuma Castle was still safe but students and staff have evacuated to the Glorieta Conference Center.

Mayor Trujillo advised that Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham is working to secure funding/resources for those who may need long term housing. Mayor Trujillo advised the Glorieta Conference Center will be contracted with the State to provide housing for the citizens and Red Cross and State agencies are at the Memorial Middle School. Mayor Trujillo advised the meeting will consist of the

City of Las Vegas planning and emergency strategies in the event there has to be a big evacuation. Mayor Trujillo advised after the statement is read they will be entering executive session to discuss legal matters that the City could be in.

Mayor Trujillo advised they would allow directors to be included in executive session and after the meeting they would have a concise report. Mayor Trujillo advised all meetings would be posted on the City's website and to convene an emergency meeting is okay as long as they notify the Attorney General's Office within 10 days of any decisions made on the City's behalf. Mayor Trujillo advised they would continuously meet and not adjourn the meeting and will state when they plan on meeting next. Mayor Trujillo advised they will keep the public informed as needed.

Councilor Montoya advised the Mora Sheriff's Office, Las Vegas Optic and San Miguel County Sheriff's websites are good sources to get information from.

Mayor Trujillo thanked Phil Scherer from the Las Vegas Optic, Matt Martinez from the Sangre de Cristo Broadcasting and Mario Romero from Las Vegas Raw page for being there and getting the correct information out to the public.

Discussion took place regarding how likely it would be for Las Vegas to have to evacuate.

Mayor Trujillo advised it is likely due to the strong winds, if it crosses the Creston Ridge the westside of town would be evacuated first. Mayor Trujillo advised the public not to fly drones in the fire areas or else all aircrafts will be grounded. Mayor Trujillo advised the public to let him know if there is anything they may need.

Councilor Romero advised the City and the County have a Ready, Set, Go status and some areas of the City are in ready status. Councilor Romero advised the public to start preparing and to follow the City, County and the Forestry websites as they go through those stages. Councilor Romero advised the public to be proactive but not to panic.

Police Chief Salazar assured the public that there are no evacuations within the City but they do have plans in place in the event that they do have to evacuate. Police Chief Salazar advised the Ready stage is first, then Set and then Go is the last stage. Police Chief Salazar encouraged everyone in the Ready stage to get ready and prepare themselves. Police Chief Salazar advised people will probably

see flames but they can't have the type of panic they had a couple of days ago. Police Chief Salazar advised they are not shutting anything down, they are continuing to get gas, water, electricity, all stores will remain open, there are 70 State Police Officers and 30 Las Vegas Police Officers patrolling. Police Chief Salazar advised that the Forestry, County and City are making significant efforts to protect the town but specifically the Creston portion. Police Chief Salazar advised the watershed is being protected. Police Chief Salazar advised during evacuations people can expect police officers and fire departments at their doors.

Mayor Trujillo advised the food services that the San Miguel County Senior Center provides has not been affected. Mayor Trujillo advised they are working closely with the Housing Authority.

Councilor Romero advised they are following what the County and State has set in place and encouraged the public to watch the daily 6 pm briefings.

Councilor Montoya thanked all the volunteers that have been helping from the County, City, Mora and other organizations from other states. Councilor Montoya advised the biggest factor is the wind.

City Manager Masestas went over the parts of the City that could be potentially affected by the Ready, Set, go stages. City Manager Maestas advised west of New Mexico from Grand to Mills are in the Ready stage (red), the areas in the Set stage (yellow), are from Mills Avenue going northwest of hwy 65 such as NMBHI and Camp Luna area, and areas that would be in the evacuation Go stage (green), are the Montezuma area, Hot Springs area, the Skating Pond area and Country Acres on 8th Street.

Interim Fire Chief Spann clarified concerns regarding the public operating fire hydrants, if that occurs that could cause the fluctuation of water, causing injuries to Fire personnel or the general public. Interim Fire Chief Spann advised there has been Fire personnel protecting the watershed and Water Treatment Plant 24 hours a day. Interim Fire Chief Spann advised the Fire department from the City of Santa Fe offered to assist the City of Las Vegas with daily operations. Interim Fire Chief Spann advised they are expecting other fire crews from throughout the state as preventive measures to help protect the City of Las Vegas. Interim Fire Chief Spann advised if the public sees fire trucks in their areas it's not a bad thing, they're patrolling the areas as preventive measures. Interim Fire Chief Spann

recommended that the public clean their yards to get rid of any materials that could catch fire.

Mayor Trujillo spoke about the water quality being in tack with the Environment department testing the water every 2 hours. Mayor Trujillo advised they have enough water in storage.

Utilities Director Gilvarry spoke about maintaining the water system/the water quality and are meeting Federal and State standards. Utilities Director Gilvarry advised they are reporting to the Environment department every 2 hours. Utilities Director Gilvarry advised they have several staff at the Water Treatment Plant 24/7 to make sure they maintain the water quality. Utilities Director Gilvarry advised they have cut fire lines around the reservoirs to help add additional protection. Utilities Director Gilvarry further advised the storage tanks are full and will not be stopping the treatment/production of water. Utilities Director Gilvarry advised the public to use water wisely.

Mayor Trujillo recognized State Representative Ambrose Castellano and thanked him for being there.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Montoya made a motion to convene into executive session for the purpose of discussing matters subject to the attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the City of Las Vegas is or may become a participant, as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H) (7) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978. Councilor Ulibarri seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David G. Romero	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
Michael L. Montoya	Yes	David Ulibarri	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to exit executive session and reconvene into regular session after being in executive session for the purpose of discussing matters subject to the attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the City of Las Vegas is or may become a participant, as permitted by Section 10-15-1 (H) (7) of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, NMSA 1978 and only those matters were discussed and no action was taken.

Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Michael L. Montoya	Yes
Barbara Casey	Yes	David G. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Montoya made a motion to recess until Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 5:30 pm. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. All were in favor.

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Meeting was recessed on Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 2:30 pm.

A notice was posted on the City's website and emailed to radio stations and the Las Vegas Optic to postpone the continued meeting from May 1, 2022 that was to be held on May 4, 2022 to continue on May 11, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting reconvened on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 5:30 pm. Mayor Louie Trujillo, Councilor Romero, Councilor Casey and Councilor Ulibarri were present. Councilor Montoya was absent.

Councilor Romero made a motion to reconvene the Emergency City Council Meeting from Sunday, May 1, 2022. Councilor Casey seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri	Yes	Barbara Casey	Yes
David G. Romero	Yes		

City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Councilor Casey advised the reason for the recess and returning from recess was to get an update on the fire situation.

ADJOURN

Councilor Casey made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Trujillo asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David Ulibarri
Barbara Casey

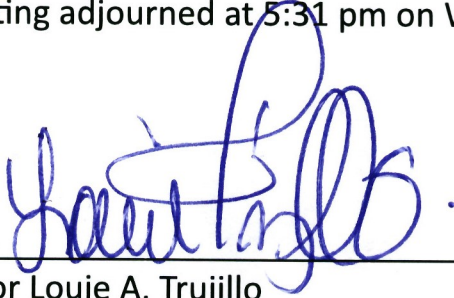
Yes
Yes

David G. Romero

Yes

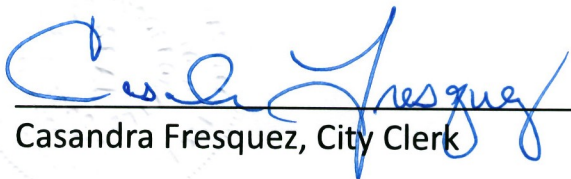
City Clerk Fresquez advised the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:31 pm on Wednesday, May 11, 2022.



Mayor Louie A. Trujillo

ATTEST:



Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk